

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for managing risk related to financial transactions involving a politically identified person, the method comprising:
  - receiving information relating to political exposure associated with a person involved in a financial transaction;
  - structuring the information received according to political exposure risk quotient criteria;
  - and
  - calculating a risk quotient using the structured information.
2. The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of generating a suggested action responsive to the risk quotient.
3. The method of claim 2 additionally comprising the steps of:
  - storing the information received, the risk quotient and the suggested action; and
  - generating a diligence report.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the diligence report comprises information received relating to political exposure and actions taken responsive to the risk quotient.
5. The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested action is additionally responsive to the information received.
6. The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested actions are directed towards reducing risk related to an account associated with a politically exposed person.
7. The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested action comprises refusing to perform a transaction.
8. The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested action comprises blocking acceptance of an account.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the suggested action comprises notifying an authority.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein the information received comprises the identity of a politically identified person and the person's relationship to an account holder.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein the information received comprises the identity of a secrecy jurisdiction.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the information received is gathered electronically.
13. The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of aggregating risk quotients relating to a financial institution to assess a level of politically identified risk to which the financial institution is exposed.
14. The method of claim 13 additionally comprising the step of calculating an average risk quotient associated with a transaction.
15. The method of claim 1 wherein the financial transaction comprises opening a financial account.
16. A computerized system for managing risk associated with a financial account, the system comprising:  
a computer server accessible with a network access device via a communications network; and  
executable software stored on the server and executable on demand, the software operative with the server to cause the system to:  
receive information relating to political exposure associated with a person involved in a financial transaction;  
structure the information received according to political exposure risk quotient criteria;  
and  
calculate a risk quotient using the structured information.
17. The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the information is received via an electronic feed.
18. The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the network access device is a personal computer.
19. The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the network access device is a wireless handheld device.
20. Computer executable program code residing on a computer-readable medium, the program code comprising instructions for causing the computer to:  
receive information relating to political exposure associated with a person involved in a financial transaction;

structure the information received according to political exposure risk quotient criteria; and

calculate a risk quotient using the structured information.

21. A computer data signal embodied in a digital data stream comprising data relating to risk management, wherein the computer data signal is generated by a method comprising the steps of:
  - receiving information relating to political exposure associated with a person involved in a financial transaction;
  - structuring the information received according to political exposure risk quotient criteria; and
  - calculating a risk quotient using the structured information.
22. A method of interacting with a network access device so as to manage risk relating to political exposure associated with a financial transaction, the method comprising the steps of:
  - initiating interaction with a host computer on a communications network;
  - inputting information relating to a person associated with an account holder via a graphical user interface; and
  - and receiving a risk quotient indicative of a level of risk associated with the person associated with the account holder.
23. The method of claim 22 wherein the risk quotient is a numerical value.